HR

Dear Paul, 7/28/72

Today the Archives letter telling me of the release of the "Incoming Mail Log" came. It is from Jane Smith, is dated 7/25/72, and is not in response to any request ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ I have made. I am absolutely certain I have not written to ask for this and am but little less certain that I never mentioned it in any way to anybody there.

On the basis of what I know, I would assume this release is in response to your request and your pushing. Aside from perhaps trying to build a phoney record of being dear sweet souls, I have other objections to this.

It violates all the Archives regulations and all decent principles of scholarship. You and those who may have asked for this have the right to its use. They are not supposed to hawk such things around.

It may be used as a basis for entrapping some of the less scrupulous into the kinds of misuse than can be anticipated with some materials, by attracting attention to what they have not asked for and others have. This can have a number of crooked advantages, like misdirecting attention and interest and destroying the real value withheld materials may have. There are several cases I can think of offhand.

Without giving it deep thought, perhaps you might want to ask around and see if others had their business solicited and then, if you find this to be the case, ask the Archives if this is the requirement of their regulations or if their regulations call for the opposite point out all the time they have delayed your sue of the file, all the cost and trouble they have put you to, and ask for an explanation.

The sheer volume of the materials and the cost of paying for xeroxes requires each to exercise discretion in what he buys. While there are few files most of us would not like to have, we each have to be selective in our quests. I think these factors also ~~xxxxxxxx~~ call for the observance of custom, that announcement of availability be restricted to those who have made requests. However, what I fear is that this does include some things I have requested without my having identified the source as this file. The language of the letter does not indicate response to any prior request.

I presume you will soon have this. I would encourage you to go over it as soon as you can find time and in addition to whatever reasons impelled your interst to look for two things: what is subject to irresponsible misuse and what may be encompassed in one of my requests of which you know.

I have used a scrap of 3M paper to copy the text of the letter itself, enclosed